

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

11

DECISION

TOPIC

Request for Title Transfer -- Swan Lake State Park, Carroll County

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for transferring a title to a 12.6 acre portion of Swan Lake State Park to Carroll County for no consideration. The Carroll County Board of Supervisors and the Carroll County Conservation Board (Board) have approved a resolution.

Swan Lake State Park is located approximately two miles southeast of the City of Carroll in Carroll County (County). The park contains 529 acres and has been successfully managed by the county since 1959. The Board currently manages the park under an agreement with the DNR that expires December 31, 2025.

In 2002, with DNR approval, the County completed construction of the Swan Lake Conservation Education Center, located on the 12.6 acre parcel, at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. The County desires to acquire title in consideration of its significant financial investment of county funds, considerable sums of grant money, donations and volunteer labor; and its desire to improve the building and grounds on its own initiative.

Iowa Code section 461A.32 provides for conveyance without consideration of park lands to cities and counties by the Executive Council upon recommendation of the Natural Resource Commission. That section requires the deed for any such transfer shall include a provision that "when such lands cease to be used as a public park by said city or county such lands revert to the state."

The Commission has recently approved similar title transfers to the City of Lakeside in 2000, Henry County in 2003 and the City of Storm Lake in 2005.

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
October 9, 2008